

In Brief

Kosovo Vet Retires 19 Feb. 2009

On 19 Feb. 2009 Col. Joel G. Schwankl will retire from the United States Marine Corps after 29 years of service to his country.

Location: Commanding General's headquarters Bldg. 1133

HRST Brief and Screen 25 July 2009

Headquarters Recruiting Screening Team (HRST) will be briefing and screening eligible Marines for recruiting duties.

Time: 0745-1600
Location: SOI, Bldg. 520591 Class Rm # 9

For more information:
POC Gunnery Sgt. Jones
(760) 725-7161

Corps Corner



By Lance Cpl. Jeremy Fasci

Unit cohesion refers to how well a group of people from different backgrounds can mesh together to complete the over-

all mission at hand. It is very hard to understand what exactly unit cohesion is because each group blends together in a different way. Finding a way that works for each unit is the only way to build a solid foundation for good cohesion no matter if it is a group of people who do not know each other or people who have been around each other for years.

In the Marine Corps this is important because when a Marine is deployed the only people that they can rely on are the Marines that deploy with him. Meshing well with others allows the team to grow as a whole. Marines can use their skills to make up for the things that other Marines are not as good at doing or push them to be better and excel in areas of weakness.

When problems begin to arise during any situation the cohesion among Marines helps the situation get resolved much more smoothly. If the entire group is trying to do different things nothing will get completed.

It is important in the office because members of the unit must be able to communicate well with each other. The easier the communication becomes, the faster things will get done. Also, there will be less actual verbal communication required because they will understand one another more as time goes on. This adaptation will improve the quality of work and the timeliness of mission accomplishment.

On the battle field unit cohesion is even more important for the accomplishment of the mission than anywhere else. It could be the only thing standing between someone's life and their death.

FAMILIES WELCOME 1ST RECON BACK HOME



Sophia Kalafatis, 4, hugs her father, Capt. Chris Kalafatis, Company B commanding officer, during the homecoming here for the Marines of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion Feb. 15.

Story and Photos by Lance Cpl. Ben Crilly

More than 50 Marines saw their families for the first time after approximately three months Feb. 15. The Marines and sailors with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, who were

deployed to Iraq, arrived here where they were welcomed home by friends and loved ones.

The gathering, accompanied by food and entertainment for kids, was organized by Reyna Reyna, the family readiness officer for the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion.

"I am excited about it and the returning Marines can expect it from now on," said Reyna talking about the homecoming and the importance of the Family Readiness Program. "It took too long to come about, but I am glad it's here."

See RECON Page 3

RCT-1 Key Volunteers Recognized

By Cpl. Stephen McGinnis

OCEANSIDE, Calif.—Members of the Regimental Combat Team 1 Key Volunteer Network were recognized for their dedication and devotion to the regiment and their families during their 13 month Iraq deployment, Thursday at The Rockin Baja Coastal Cantina in Oceanside, Calif.

The volunteers played a key role in supporting the spouses of Marines deployed.

Throughout the Regiment's 13 month deployment to Iraq, the KVN

updated families on the status of their deployed loved ones and provided support to the spouses.

They hosted various events such as a Valentine's Day party, a sign making party and prepared for the three homecomings.

"It was important for us to host the events because it brings together spouses that are all going through the same thing. It brings us together as families and a lot of us remain friends after our husbands come home," said Kimberly Diaz, the 1st Marine Regiment Key Volunteer

Coordinator, from Santa Fe, N.M. Kimberly is the husband of 1st Lt. Gabriel Diaz, a member of Regimental Combat Team 1.

The volunteers not only helped the spouses back home, but also played a pivotal role in supporting the Marines serving in Iraq.

"When the Marines get out to Iraq, we go into autopilot; it's seven days a week 365 days of the year. It's great to know that if anything happens back home, there is a group of people there to help out," said

See VOLUNTEERS Page 3

I MEF Marines return from yearlong tour

Story and Photos by Lance Cpl. John McCall

More than 250 Marines and sailors assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) arrived here Feb. 11 after a one-year deployment in Al Anbar province, Iraq.

Family members numbering more than 100 waited anxiously during the early morning hours in mid 30 degree temperatures at Camp Del Mar to see their Marines

I MEF (Fwd) took part in several significant milestones during their 12-month tour. Iraqi Security Forces assumed responsibility in the Al Anbar province Sept. 1, 2008, and provided security allowing provincial elections to take place without violence Jan. 31, 2009.

Among the returnees was Maj. Gen. John F. Kelly, I MEF (Fwd), who served as Commanding General for Multi National Force-West, headquartered first at Camp Fallujah and then at Al Asad Air Base under Multi National Force-Iraq.

"The expectation [for the Iraqi provincial elections] was for a lot of violence, said Kelly. "We had nearly 100 percent voter registration, no violence, no fraud.

Kelly added with the new security in place Iraqi citizens will be able to walk the streets without fear or worry.

"We take so much for granted as Americans, the freedoms we have. It's kind of amazing to watch people who are just now getting used to

See MEF Page 3



Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey Houchins, an aircraft mechanic with Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, is greeted with smiles by his wife and son during the I MEF (Fwd) homecoming ceremony here. I MEF (Fwd) returned from a year-long deployment in Al Anbar province, Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

-Corps Training-

‘Wolfpack’ tops off NTC training with FINEX

By Cpl. R. Logan Kyle

The Marines and sailors of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion completed their two-week pre-deployment training evolution here Jan. 30, at the end of a final exercise designed to test their newly acquired skills. The Wolfpack spent a week preparing for the four-day FINEX by conducting urban patrols, zone and route reconnaissance missions, and casualty evacuation exercises throughout Fort Irwin’s training areas.

“The National Training Center here at Fort Irwin affords us a great opportunity to conduct many types of missions,” said Lt. Col. Ken Kassner, commanding officer. “Our principle focus of effort here is to conduct counter-insurgency operations while working with Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army soldiers and civil leadership officials to better the situation in their respective simulated towns.

“Due to the versatility, maneuverability and the organic firepower of an LAR battalion, we can conduct a variety of missions across the spectrum of counter-insurgency,” added the Coupland, Texas, native.

The battalion’s scenario during the FINEX was to help Iraqi Security Forces defeat enemy insurgents in order to facilitate self-governance and economic development in the simulated towns throughout the training area, dubbed the Al Khadaa Province.

Each company faced similar problems in their assigned towns dealing with sanitation, water, food, crime and economic development issues.

All of these problems have been common in Iraq since the fall of the Iraqi government in 2003.



Photo by Cpl. R. Logan Kyle

The Marines and sailors of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion completed their training at the Army’s National Training Center Fort Irwin, Calif., Jan. 26 – 30, with a final training exercise designed to test their newly acquired skills. Each company in the battalion was assigned to a town in the Al Khadaa Province, a training area at Fort Irwin.

Company D was appointed as the main effort in Al Wahde, the provincial capital.

Throughout the four-day exercise, Company D, also known by their call sign ‘Dragoons,’ identified the problems civilian Iraqi role players faced and made efforts to better the town.

The Dragoons helped train Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police officials, identified and investigated potential terrorists, and provided medical care and food to civilian role players.

“This was really good training for a non-kinetic environment,” said Lance Cpl. Aaron Ramos, rifleman, Com-

pany D, 3rd LAR. “We’ve been practicing language skills and building rapport with the local populous in order to gain valuable information.”

Training now is much different than it was during the initial invasion of Iraq, added the Oceanside, Calif., native. Instead of being the tip of the spear, Marines are now mainly playing a support role.

“This training really gets us in the mindset that we aren’t going to go to Iraq and be in a fully kinetic environment all the time,” said Cpl. Sergio Gomez, squad leader, Company D, 3rd LAR.

However, the random riots and simulated improvised explosive device attacks helped us avoid complacency, added the Downey, Calif., native.

The Iraqi role players also proved to be key factors during the training exercise. They only spoke Arabic, making the Marines work a little harder when gathering intelligence and conducting daily operations. However, translators were assigned to each company to help break the language barrier.

Thanks to our training here at Fort Irwin and Exercise Steel Knight, which took place at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., in December, the Wolfpack will be ready for anything we may face in Iraq, said Kassner.

The Wolfpack is slated for its fifth deployment to Iraq this spring and may be one of the last LAR battalions to deploy to the country.



Photo by Cpl. R. Logan Kyle

An Iraqi Army role player provides security from a machine gun nest during a riot in Al Wahde, a training town at the Army’s National Training Center Fort Irwin, Calif., Jan. 28.

MEU CBRN Marines “seal” themselves in training

By Sgt. Bryson K. Jones

Fifteen Marines with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit took part in the three



Photo by Sgt. Scott M. Biscuiti

Pfc. James Mayo, a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear specialist with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, seals himself in a CBRN protective suit prior to taking part in an exercise here Feb. 4.

week Marine Air Ground Task Force MAGTF Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear CBRN Assessment and Consequence Management ACM course here.

The course is designed to give the 11th MEU the full capability to provide CBRN operations in any situation the MEU might find itself for its upcoming WESTPAC deployment later this year.

During the courses Marines had the opportunity to use the new CBRN ACM gear which includes new suits and decontamination equipment.

“We are officially the second MEU to use this new equipment,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gary Reed, CBRN Officer, 11th MEU.

The new equipment puts the Marines with the MEU on par with Marine Corps standards as well as all other government agencies like the Occupational Safety and Health Administration OSHA and the Environmental Protection Agency EPA.

“These suits are better equipped for all scenarios dealing with the range of (hazardous material) situations,” said Lance Cpl. James Day, 1st Marine Division CBRN Instructor/Trainer. “Instead of using military gear that adapts to the situation, this gear is off the shelf civilian gear designed just for this purpose. The suits are a lot easier to use and more comfortable to operate in.”

Marines involved got their fair share of hands on time as the course consisted of three field exercises in various locations on Camp Pendleton

including a water treatment facility and an urban environment scenario at 25 Area combat town.

“Even though the gear is bulky and hot,” said Pfc. James Mayo, a CBRN specialist. “We accomplished a lot as a team and are familiarized and

ready to support the MEU.”

The CBRN Marines of the MEU will continue to gain proficiency as they further their training during the unit’s extensive work-up cycle in preparation for deployment later this year.



Photo by Sgt. Scott M. Biscuiti

A Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear specialist with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit suits up in preparation for a training exercise here Feb. 4. Fifteen Marines with the MEU took part in a three week CBRN assessment and consequence management course designed to better prepare the Marines with possible threats during their upcoming deployment.

Recon

Cont. from Page 1

Reyna said that her job as the family readiness officer is “to act as a liaison between the command and the family, to answer questions and deal with situations so that the families are good to go and the Marines can focus on their jobs.”

One family that came together for the homecoming was that of Cpl. Sabe Ovando, a reconnaissance Marine with Company C, 1st Recon Battalion. His family originates from Guatemala and now resides in Downey, Calif.

His wife Megan Ovando, his mother Gloria Melendez, his grandmother Elaina Melendez, and his sisters Stephanie and Jennifer Olvarado were there to welcome him home with his daughter that was born during this deployment.

“His coming home means the world to us – you can’t understand or explain the feeling,” said Stephanie Olvarado, Cpl. Ovando’s sister.

This homecoming means relief for the families of those Marines, knowing that they are home.

“My stress will be so much less, I will have help around the house,” said Rochelle Cederholm, from Temecula, Calif. whose husband Gunnery Sgt. Cederholm arrived with

Company C. “I have my best friend and companion home.”

The families were not the only ones relieved with the Marines safe return.

“Nothing beats family – we are a family when we are over there,” said Capt. Geoff V. Mero, the executive officer for Company C, a Seattle, native. “Coming home is the best feeling in the world, knowing that you brought everyone home.”

The relief of the Marines arriving home safely is even better, since we were able to bring everyone home without casualties this deployment, said Gunnery Sgt. Glen Cederholm, who served as the platoon sergeant for Company C.

Some of the Marines had former and current military family members present at the homecoming. “Being retired military and seeing your son come home, there is so much pride,” said Guy Snell, a proud father, retired 1st Class Bosons Mate and retired Navy diver from Poulsba, Wash.

“The Marines coming home is so much pride and happiness,” said Snell commenting on the homecoming. “All our prayers were answered now that they are home and our



After over three months in Iraq Cpl. Sabe Ovando, a Company C Marine with 1st Recon Battalion came home Sunday to meet his daughter for the first time.

hearts go out to those who lost loved ones.”

Volunteers

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Regimental Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Don W. Gallagher. “I need to know my Marines heads are in the game, and if they are worrying about things going back home, they can’t focus. It helps us to know the KVN’s are always there.”

The appreciation dinner brought closure to the deployment and recognized the spouses. The KVN’s were given letters of appreciation and bracelets from the Regimental Commander, Col. Lewis A. Craparotta and Sgt. Maj. Gallagher.

“After a long deployment we want to thank the volunteers for their support and sacrifices they made for the Marines forward,” said 1st Sergeant William Shaw, the Headquarters and Support Company, Remain Behind Element 1st Sergeant from Winslow, Ariz.

To conclude the evening, the volunteers received their certificates from Capt. Cameron Renner the Regimental Combat Team 1, Headquarters and Service Company, commanding officer.

“We really appreciate what you have done for all the Marines and sailors of RCT-1,” Renner said.



Sgt. Michael Fry, an intelligence communicator with I Marine Expeditionary Force, hugs girlfriend Catherine Coram after a year long absence.

MEF

Cont. from Page 1

being free.”

Kelly’s area of responsibility was primarily Al Anbar province, the largest in Iraq that covers an area of approximately 53,000 square miles with more than 25,000 U.S. service members, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Their loved ones have been gone for a year. That’s a long time,” said

retired Sgt. Maj. Wayne R. Bell, the family readiness officer for I MEF, “There are a few newborn babies that haven’t seen their father yet.”

Seeing families that have something in common come together is great to see, said Karen Kelly, Maj. Gen. Kelly’s wife and a Teaneck, N.J. native.

“It’s so humbling seeing folks that have sacrificed so much, but yet are so thankful for their loved ones doing what their doing,” said David

Marks, father of an infantry Marine and Plato, Texas native. “There’s not a dry eye in the house when you see a little child run up to their father or their mother and haven’t seen them for such a long time.”

After a long deployment filled with many admirable accomplishments these Marines will be given a well deserved rest and time to prepare for their next endeavor when they get back in the fight.

The Blue Diamond Weekly Newsletter is brought to you by:

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This Week in Marine Corps History: African-Americans earn equality through heroics

By Sgt. Ray Lewis

From 1942-1949, African-American Marines were not allowed to fight on the front lines with their Caucasian counterparts.

African-American Marines were only allowed to take up positions as stewards, ammunition technicians and supply men.

It wasn’t until Caucasian parents voiced the issue that African-American Marines were allowed to fight on the front lines.

“Some (Caucasian) parents wondered why so many (Caucasian) Marines were dying and (African-American) Marines weren’t fighting with them, so they started writing letters,” said Evangeline Vann, wife of retired Sgt. Maj. William “Movin” Vann, a Montford Point Marine.

The letters sparked interest, and African-American Marines sent to battle, did great things.

Retired 1st Sgt. Barnett Pearson,

a Montford Point Marine, knows of such exploits by first hand experience.

“We had some hard Marines back then,” said Pearson referring to the WWII era. “Marines that would risk their lives for anything.”

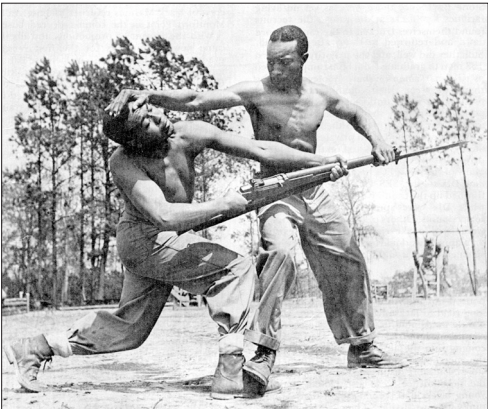
Pearson knew Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Rodney M. Davis, who made the ultimate sacrifice when he smothered a live grenade with his body to save the lives of many Marines around him.

“He was real nice and a Marine from his heart,” said Pearson.

Not only does Pearson know African-American Marines that made history, Pearson made history himself.

While assigned to 3rd Tank Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, during the “bloody” battle of Con Thein, Vietnam in 1967, Pearson repelled the enemy with the help of injured Marines and little supplies.

For his actions, Pearson was



Cpl. Alvin “Tony” Ghazlo, the senior bayonet and unarmed combat instructor at Montford Point, demonstrates a disarming technique on his assistant, Private Ernest “Judo” Jones. Between 1942 and 1947, approximately 20,000 African-American recruits received training at Montford Point Camp.

awarded the Silver Star, the nation’s third highest award for combat valor.

“The enemy didn’t think we were as strong as we were,” said Pearson, who is credited with more than 100 enemy kills from his tank.

During another Vietnam battle in 1967, Pearson saved the life of another Montford Point Marine.

“If it wasn’t for (Pearson), I wouldn’t be here today,” said retired 1st Sgt. William “Jack” McDowell, who was rescued by Pearson. “In my mind, he should have received a second Silver Star.”

According to Pearson, while McDowell was trying to save his company commander, McDowell was struck by enemy fire in his left leg.

Seeing a fellow Marine in need, Pearson came to McDowell’s aid.

“(McDowell) said, ‘I was so happy to see that tank come around that corner, and to especially see a Montford Point Marine,’” said Pearson.

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For further information, inquiries, corrections, or additions please contact the Division Public Affairs Office by phone at 760-725-8766 or by email at blue_diamond_editor@yahoo.com.

-The Frontlines-



Students march bye carrying their nations colors at the start of the ceremony. The ceremony celebrated the graduation of 328 of Iraq’s finest.

Ramadi Training Center graduates 328 policemen to protect Iraqi streets

Story and Photos by Sgt. Dorian Gardner

Walking tall before their instructors and senior personnel, 328 Iraqi police officers completed their Basic Recruit Training at the Ramadi Training Center, Feb. 3.

The Ramadi Training Center was recently renovated and now provides billeting for students and instructors, classrooms, and a dining facil-

ity since its first course kicked off Oct. 20, 2008.

In 2007, the Al Anbar Province was manned by an insufficient force of 9,000 men, said to Paul Wm. Van Vorce, International Police advisor. Because of the constant struggle against Al Qaeda in Iraq and other insurgent groups, the demand for police officers increased, and in response, training became secondary

to production.

According to Van Vorce, they employed police at an expedient rate without the proper training. It was a self-inflicted problem caused by asking for higher numbers than the system could support.

“To remedy the situation, we are catching up on back log,” said Van Vorce. “These courses refresh those police officers who have been on the force, and train them in technical and tactical procedures in a changing environment.”

According to Capt. Ammar Sami, a Ramadi Training Center training officer, the Ramadi Training Center puts police officers through a 30-day program and equips them with knowledge of first-aid, human rights, entry control-point procedures, and vehicle control-point procedures.

Safa Hamadui, an 18-year-old policeman with two years of experience, said he enjoyed the training.

“The [practical application] is fantastic,” said Hamadui. “They incorporate real scenarios. It is almost life-like.”

Because the environment has evolved, the training has as well. “Police patrol functions are one of the aspects changing most,” said Van Vorce.

According to Capt. Ammar, they have demilitarized the training. Captain Ammar maintains the student’s training schedule and their materials. Working with U.S. Army units in the past, he has applied his knowledge while training oncoming students.

“We have undergone a very radical change,” said Capt. Ammar. “We have different materials, different training. After establishing the academy, we received a lot of support from the Marines and International Police advisors.”

“The Iraqi Security Forces get better day by day. Right now, they guard the borders, capture terrorists – it is something of independence,” said Ammar.

The course will continue to incorporate new classes. Crime scene forensics, self-defense, detention operations courses, and explosive ordinance disposal will be added for future training iterations.

Iraqi police continue to take charge of this fight against the enemies of Iraq, and with more knowledge to support this on-going battle, Iraqi policemen on the beat will be well-prepared.



A proud graduate waves his nation’s flag after the students were dismissed from their graduation ceremony.



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Photo by Lance Cpl. Kelsey J. Green

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.- Lance Cpl. John W. Taylor, a team leader with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, provides security for an assault on an enemy compound during Mojave Viper’s final training exercise at Range 215 Jan. 28. The Marines of 2/8 have been training for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.



Photo by Sgt. Elsa Portillo

THIES, Senegal-Pvt. Tete Dhiediyou, Senegalese Special Forces, participates in a riot formation, which is a portion of the non-lethal tactics seminar. The non-lethal tactics seminar is just one of many exchanges happening at the Thies Military Reserve, Thies, Senegal. This is the first of six countries the U.S. Marines will visit in support of Africa Partnership Station 2009, an initiative to partner with the host nation security forces and foster regional maritime safety and security.

For more information, photos and stories about Marine Corps training, education, news and features go to:
WWW.MARINES.MIL

NBA STANDINGS

(As of 09-02-12)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic:				
Boston	43	11	.796	--
Philadelphia	27	24	.529	14.5
New Jersey	24	29	.453	18.5
New York	21	31	.404	21.0
Toronto	21	34	.382	22.5
Central:				
Cleveland	40	11	.784	--
Detroit	27	24	.529	13.0
Milwaukee	26	29	.473	16.0
Chicago	23	29	.442	17.5
Indiana	21	33	.389	20.5
Southeast:				
Orlando	38	13	.745	--
Atlanta	31	21	.596	7.5
Miami	27	24	.529	11.0
Charlotte	21	31	.404	17.5
Washington	11	42	.208	28.0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Southwest:				
San Antonio	35	16	.686	--
Dallas	31	20	.608	4.0
Houston	32	21	.604	4.0
New Orleans	30	20	.600	4.5
Memphis	15	37	.288	20.5
Northwest:				
Denver	36	17	.679	--
Portland	32	19	.627	3.0
Utah	30	23	.566	6.0
Minnesota	17	34	.333	18.0
Oklahoma City	13	40	.245	23.0
Pacific:				
LA Lakers	42	10	.808	--
Phoenix	28	23	.549	13.5
Golden State	18	35	.340	24.5
LA Clippers	13	40	.245	29.5
Sacramento	11	43	.204	32.0



Yahoo Sports Photo

World Cup Qualifyier

United States midfielder Sacha Kljestan (16) is upended on a challenge by Mexico midfielder Antonio Naelson during the second half of a World Cup qualifying soccer match, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009, in Columbus, Ohio. The USA won 2-0.

Movie premiere hits close to home for service members

By Lance Cpl. Bryan G. Carfrey

WASHINGTON — Senior military officials and government dignitaries gathered to watch the premiere of “Taking Chance,” the HBO made-for-TV movie, Feb. 9 at the Motion Picture Association of America.

“Taking Chance” depicts the experiences of Lt. Col. Michael R. Strobl while escorting a fallen Marine from Dover Air force Base in Dover, Del., to Dubois, Wyo., in April 2004.

Lance Cpl. Chance Phelps was killed in action during combat operations April 9, 2004, in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, while assigned to Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment.

“When we started filming the movie I thought the American people should be the main character,” said

Strobl, who retired in 2007 and co-wrote the movie. “That’s why I wrote it - the reaction of the American people who witnessed the journey along the way.”

“I was amazed and surprised I didn’t know anything about it and had no idea about the (escorting) process,” said Actor Kevin Bacon.

“Taking Chance” is scheduled to premiere on HBO Feb. 21.

Boxing P4P* List

(As of 09-02-12)

1. Manny Pacquiao
2. Bernard Hopkins
3. Juan Manuel Marquez
4. Shane Mosley
5. Israel Vazquez
6. Ivan Calderon
7. Miguel Cotto
8. Rafael Marquez
9. Paul Williams
10. Kelly Pavlik

* **P4P - pound for pound**

MMA P4P* List

(As of 09-02-12)

1. Anderson Silva
2. Georges St. Pierre
3. Fedor Emelianenko
4. B.J. Penn
5. Miguel Torres
6. Rashad Evans
7. Forrest Griffin
8. Quinton Jackson
9. Thiago Alves
10. Mike Thomas Brown



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bryan G. Carfrey

Retired Lt. Col. Michael R. Strobl stands next to actor Kevin Bacon during a premier showing of HBO’s made-for-TV movie ‘Taking Chance.’ Bacon plays the role of Strobl in the movie as a uniformed military escort bringing home the body of Lance Cpl. Chance Phelps who was killed in action April 9, 2004. The movie is based off of the journal Strobl kept during the escorting of Phelps from Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Del., to Phelps hometown in Dubois, Wyo.



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